

**For Immediate Release
April 9, 2011**

**Mayor Coleman and Several Hundred of Representatives From Businesses and
Community Groups Volunteer Cleanup Cigarette and Other Litter
Along Freeway Ramps During Today's KickButt Columbus Cleanup**

Mayor Michael B. Coleman and several hundred volunteers from area businesses and community groups today cleaned cigarette and other litter from more than 25 freeway ramps during the mayor's annual KickButt Columbus Litter Cleanup.

"Cigarette and other litter along our freeway ramps are a blight on our neighborhoods," said Mayor Coleman. "Freeway ramps are the gateways to our neighborhoods and should be clean and reflect the pride people have in their neighborhoods."

The mayor's annual KickButt cleanups in 2010 and 2009 brought together a total of 726 volunteers who cleaned a combined 13.2 tons of litter from along freeway ramps over the two years. The annual event unites the City, state and local businesses and community groups for a cleaner, greener and safer Columbus.

"This effort is truly a community-wide cleanup and a great example of public-private partnership," said Eileen Y. Paley, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. "This is an effort that needs to continue year round to keep Columbus beautiful."

"The BIA is proud to be involved with Kick Butt Columbus for the third year in a row," said BIA Executive Director Jim Hilz. "This event allows BIA members to give back to the community they live and work in."

"Young professionals are eager to connect to opportunities, the community, organizations and their peers," said Columbus Young Professionals Manager Robbie Banks. "KickButt Columbus brings all of these components together where YPs, students, businesses, organizations and neighborhoods can positively affect a quality of life issue, ensuring that our community is clean and inviting. Thus, this event helps to create a sense of pride and ownership."

KickButt Columbus co-sponsors in the business community include:

- Building Industry Association
- Central Ohio Restaurant Association
- Central Ohio Transit Authority
- Columbus Chamber
- Columbus Young Professionals Club
- G & J Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company
- InnovaGreen Systems
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association

The cleanup was organized by the city of Columbus' Keep Columbus Beautiful (KCB) program, which is housed in the Department of Public Service. KCB works with neighborhood, business, church and other groups to clean litter in Columbus between April and October of each year.

The groups are responsible for recruiting volunteers for the cleanups; KCB provides trash bags, gloves, litter grabbers, rakes and other equipment for the cleanups. In 2010, nearly 9,331 volunteers cleaned 183.2 tons of litter and debris in Columbus. Neighborhood groups who want to organize cleanups and work with KCB should call 311 or 645-3111.